

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY  
LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION BUREAU**



**PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER  
PERMIT PROGRAM**

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## **State of Alaska Portable Fire Extinguisher Permit Program**

### **Background**

The Alaska State Division of Fire and Life Safety issues permits for the installation, maintenance, and repair of portable fire extinguishers. These fire extinguisher permits are issued under the following program policies in accordance with 13AAC 50.030(h).

### **Portable Fire Extinguisher Permit Program**

#### **Portable Fire Extinguisher Permits**

Portable Fire Extinguisher Permits are valid for 3 years from the date of issue. To renew the permit an individual must complete the same examination procedure as required for the initial permit. Permits are non-transferable and shall be in possession of the applicant when engaged in activity for which the permit was issued. Violations of the permit law (13 AAC 50.30 and 13 AAC 55.100) will be subjected to the penalties prescribed in AS 18.70.100. Presently there is no charge for these permits.

#### **Portable Fire Extinguisher Permit Levels**

**Class I:** Inspection and non-invasive annual maintenance of portable fire extinguishers.

*This includes all the monthly and annual inspection issues, as long as non-invasive maintenance is required. This permit allows such things as weighing the unit, making sure the internal powder has not settled, inspecting tags, seals, hoses, locking items, etc. It does not include the removal or replacement of parts or pieces of the unit. Class I does not allow a seal to be replaced even if it appears that no other damage has occurred to the unit or the unit was not used, but it does allow a person to attach a new annual inspection record tag.*

**Class II:** Inspection, recharge, distribution, and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers.

*This includes the elements of Class I and also ability to recharge, install the units in buildings, decide on unit location within a facility, and perform general maintenance. General maintenance includes the removal and replacement of parts and/or powder, and any required internal inspections. Maintenance issues are further identified in NFPA 10.*

**Class III:** Inspection, recharge, distribution, maintenance, and hydrostatic testing of portable fire extinguishers.

*This includes all the elements of Class I and II, and also the ability to perform hydrostatic tests on the portable units.*

#### **Portable Fire Extinguisher Testing**

Class II and III exams may be mailed to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party test administrator who will administer the exam in the local area. All requests for a Class II or III exam must **be submitted to our office two weeks before the exam date** and in writing (email requests are accepted) with the following information:

1. Name of Test Proctor
2. Company or Agency of Test Proctor
3. Mailing Address of Company or Agency of Test Proctor
4. Name of examinee(s) taking the exam
5. Date of exam
6. Level(s) of exam(s)
7. Signature and Date

Applicants are required to supply their own examination reference material, and find a test administrator in their area who will administer the exam. The local test administrator is required to return all exam packets (applications, answer sheets, exam rosters, and exams) to the Life Safety Inspection Bureau within 20 days of when the materials were mailed. **All exams are open book and require a 90% passing score. The exam time limit is 4 consecutive hours and applicants may not discuss test with other applicants or proctor during the exam. Applicants will be notified within 30 business days in a written form whether they have passed the exam or not.**

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau may schedule testing at local regional offices upon request(s), but the primary test delivery method is at the applicant's location.

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau will score all exams and issue the permits. All questions regarding fire extinguisher testing and permits should be directed to:

**Amy Noket**  
**Life Safety Inspection Bureau**  
**5700 E. Tudor Road**  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99507**  
**Phone: (907) 269-5637 | Fax: (907) 269-5018**  
**Email: [amy.noket@alaska.gov](mailto:amy.noket@alaska.gov)**

#### Examination Reference Material

Class II:

- a. NFPA 10, 2010 Edition
- b. Alaska Administrative Code, 13 AAC 50.030

Class III:

- a. NFPA 10, 2010 Edition
- b. Compressed Gas Association Manual C-1, 2009 - 10<sup>th</sup> Edition
- c. Alaska Administrative Code, 13 AAC 50.030

NFPA 10, 2010 Edition may be available for purchase at many local bookstores or direction through the NFPA website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). It may also be available at most public libraries. The Alaska Administrative Codes, 13 AAC 50.030 (under Fire & Life Safety Regulations) may be downloaded at <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/fire/regulations.aspx>. The Compressed Gas Association Manual may be ordered from the Compressed Gas Association at [www.cganet.com](http://www.cganet.com). **The Life Safety Inspection Bureau does not supply these reference guides for testing. The applicant is required to furnish their own testing materials.**

## **Inspection & Maintenance**

Inspection and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers is defined by the Alaska State Division of Fire and Life Safety as follows:

### **Monthly inspection**

**Monthly inspections do not require a permit.** This is a “quick check” that a fire extinguisher is available and will operate. It is intended to give reasonable assurance that the fire extinguisher is fully charged and operable. This is done by verifying that it is in its designated place, that it has not been actuated or tampered with, and that there is no obvious or physical damage or condition to prevent its operation. A monthly inspection may be performed by anyone who has received training and has been approved by the facility manager and/or owner.

### **Annual Inspection**

This is an in depth inspection that must be performed at least once per year. This inspection is intended to give an assurance that the extinguisher is fully charged and operable. The scope of this annual inspection is outlined below. The annual inspection may only be performed by someone with at least a Class I permit. This is a complete external examination of the fire extinguisher. It includes a thorough examination of the unit, weighing the unit, “shaking the powder” and any other procedure that does not include the removal of any part or piece of the unit.

### **Maintenance**

A complete and thorough examination of the fire extinguisher including internal and external inspections, intended to give maximum assurance that a fire extinguisher will operate effectively and safely. This maintenance also includes any necessary repairs or replacements. It will normally reveal if hydrostatic testing or internal maintenance is required. Maintenance requires a Class II or III permit.

### **Recharging**

The replacement of the extinguishing agent (also includes the expellant for certain types of fire extinguishers). Recharging requires a Class II or III permit.